Nixons Planning a 'Quiet Family Christmas'

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SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF., Dec. 24 (UPI)—Former President Nixon got more than 7,000 Christmas cards on Monday alone, and gift packages have been coming in at the rate of six to 10 a day for several weeks, the San Clemente post office disclosed today.

An aide said the former chief executive would spend a "quiet family Christmas" with his wife, his two daughters and their husbands at the ocean villa where he is recovering from surgery.

Chuck Connors, the Western movie and television actor, arrived in San Clemente today, and it was believed he might pay a Christmas call. Connors struck up a friendship with Nixon and was introduced to Leonid I. Brezhnev when the Soviet leader visited San Clemente two years ago.

The Western Union office said Nixon received 25 telegrams Monday and that 25 more had arrived before noon today.

Manager Greg Joanidi said most of the telegrams conveyed holiday greetings and wishes for Nixon's speedy recovery but that a few complained about the state of the economy.

One of the telegrams was from Evangelist Billy Graham. A number of letters were from overseas.

Four local florist shops said that a number of plants and flowers had been sent to the Nixon family for Christmas but declined to identify the senders.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Nixon's personal physician, said the former President's recovery was following the "projected course" and that he was showing gradual improvement that permits periods of walking adding up to about two miles a day.

Pat Nixon decorated a large tree during the weekend with ornaments the family has had since their daughters were small girls and also placed wreaths around the house, an aide disclosed.

Tricia and Edward Cox planned to stay at San Clemente over the weekend while Julie and David Eisenhower were expected to remain through New Year's day.

The former Western White House offices at the adjoining Coast Guard complex were deserted. Nixon aide Ron Ziegler was spending Christmas in Washington, as was military aide Col. Jack Brennan.

Paul Presley, a friend of Nixon whose property is next to that of the former President, said he got a letter from Nixon today with a handwritten note at the bottom saying, "Let's get together over the holidays."

"I don't know what he means by that," Presley said.

Presley said he had not seen Nixon since he returned from the hospital last month and that so far as he knew the Nixons had not entertained anyone else.

European Satellite

Agence France-Presse

PARIS, Dec. 24—The Franco-West German experimental telecommunications satellite Symphonie launched into orbit last Wednesday was successfully stabilized last night and its solar panel deployed, the National Space Research Control Center in Toulouse announced today.